

IDAHO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICIAL MINUTES

February 8, 2007

A meeting of the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (ECC) was held on this date in the Basement Conference Room, Joe R. Williams Building, Boise, Idaho.

Presentation

Before the meeting was officially called to order, Mr. Jim Rehder, an Idaho County Commissioner, asked to speak to the ECC. Mr. Rehder stated emergency communications is a problem in Idaho County due to terrain and asked for support from the ECC in its initiatives to correct the problems. He stated one immediate need is to install fiber optic at the top of White Bird Hill at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million. He further stated the county has a problem with redundancy and reliability.

Commission Bishop responded that with the Bureau of Homeland Security's broad band initiatives, there may be an opportunity to fund fiber optic at White Bird Hill through grants.

Chairman Nancolas noted that Eddie Goldsmith is a great resource for Idaho County and the ECC also stands ready to assist. The ECC is making progress towards its ability to provide financial assistance.

Chairman Nancolas called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Garret Nancolas, Mayor, City of Caldwell, Commission Chairman
Rich Wills, State Representative, Commission Vice-Chairman
Teresa Baker, Ada County Prosecutor's Office
Clint Berry, Qwest, Boise
Bill Bishop, Director, Bureau of Homeland Security
Ann Cronin, Special Assistant, Idaho State Police, Commission Secretary
R. David Moore, Blackfoot Police Chief, Commission Treasurer
Kevin Quick, Chief, Pocatello Fire Department

Members Absent:

Matt Beebe, Commissioner, Canyon County Commission
Dia Gainor, Chief, Idaho Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Joanna Guilfooy, Deputy Attorney General and Ex-Officio Member
Troy Hagen, Director, Ada County Paramedics
Jim Lemm, J&R Electronics, Inc., Coeur d'Alene

Others Present:

Keith Johnson, Director, Department of Administration (ADM)
Joe Roche, Department of Administration
Lex Rutter, Department of Administration
Rebecca Fry, Department of Administration
Robin Finch, Department of Administration
Chris Smith, Canyon County Sheriff
Dodie Collier, Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)
Sandy Harris, Statewide Interoperability Executive Council
Nikki Jansen, Ada County Sheriff's Office
Les Shadduck
Jim Rehder, Idaho County Commissioner
Eddie Goldsmith, Statewide E911 Project Manager
Scot Maring, Department of Administration

Introductions

Chairman Nancolas introduced Keith Johnson, the new Director of the Department of Administration (ADM). Director Johnson stated he is looking forward to working with the ECC and pledged the support of ADM.

Chairman Nancolas also introduced Sheriff Chris Smith. Commissioner Gary Aman, who represents the Idaho Sheriffs' Association, has submitted his resignation from the ECC and Sheriff Smith's name has been submitted to the Governor's office as the recommendation for Commissioner Aman's replacement.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Quick moved and Commissioner Moore seconded that the Commission approve the minutes of the January 4, 2007 Idaho Emergency Communications Commission meeting as written. The motion passed.

Financial Reports

Commissioner Moore, Treasurer, presented the financial report which shows that the Commission has spent \$36,990 and has collected \$58,440 in Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07), and has a current balance of \$196,015.

MOTION: Commissioner Cronin moved and Commissioner Baker seconded that the financial report be accepted. The motion passed.

SIEC Update

Dodie Collier, Project Manager for the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), provided the following update:

- The SIEC is continuing to partner with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to assist counties and regions in interoperable communications planning by providing plan review assistance.
- Ms Collier and SIEC Chair Mark Lockwood recently went to Indianapolis for a National Governors Association (NGA) meeting to present the progress of interoperable communications in Idaho. They are also planning to attend NGA training in Louisiana in March 2007.
- The SIEC funding subcommittee is working with the Special Olympics staff and will watch for funding opportunities possible due to Idaho hosting the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in February 2009.
- At their January meeting, Colonel Shawver, Chief of Staff of the Idaho National Guard, gave a presentation on communications equipment the Idaho National Guard is expecting to receive in the near future.
- Kootenai County tested 700 MHz communications from Sandpoint to Post Falls using hand-held radios. The communications worked well and the testing continues.

Commissioner Bishop added that the US Department of Commerce has designated \$1 billion to implement interoperable communications in 700 MHz, and Idaho is in a good position to receive money since it has a plan in place. He further stated that Idaho is probably in the top 5 of the 50 states in implementing interoperable communications and that voice and data communications are the future.

The next meeting of the SIEC is March 16, 2007, in Building 440, Gowen Field, Boise, ID.

E911 Project Manager Report

Mr. Goldsmith, Statewide E911 Project Manager, reported the following:

- There were two technology seminars held in the last month. One was in Coeur d'Alene and the other was in Idaho Falls. Approximately 60 people attended and the training was well received. A good overview of Next Generation 911 was presented and he would like to bring the same seminar to an ECC meeting. He also plans to schedule two more seminars; one in Ada County and one in McCall.
- Requests for assistance continue. He was in Blaine County on February 5 to discuss computer aided dispatch (CAD) and mapping.
- He has formed a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Standards Committee consisting of 12 volunteers from various PSAPs around the state. They will have their

organizational meeting on February 13 in Idaho Falls and will identify what standards they want to establish; equipment standards, training standards, or other. He reaffirmed that he will just be providing information and resource material and that the committee will establish the standards. The standards created will then be provided to all of the state's PSAPs for input and acceptance.

- A letter has been sent to all PSAP owners providing the status of each PSAP in the state and recommending a committee be formed to create a 911 Strategic Plan. This plan will be a five year plan to upgrade all PSAPs to not only Phase II compliance, but to stage the state for the Next Generation 911 systems.
- He gave a PowerPoint presentation showing Enhanced 911 graphically and pointed out that a call stops being 911 when the dispatcher radios out from the antenna at the PSAP for assistance.
- He has been receiving calls asking specifics on what can be purchased with emergency communications fees and would like guidance. The Commission stated that the ECC does not have the authority to give legal advice. The callers should be referred to the Title 31 legislation and they can refer to Mr. Goldsmith for his opinion, but that they should be referred to their own attorneys for legal advice.
- He attended a meeting of the Idaho Geospatial Committee on February 8. This group plans to make a statewide map to share geospatial information with all counties. He will assist this group with public safety input.

“Next Steps” Subcommittee Report

Mr. Goldsmith provided his revised list of action items and a copy of the original list of action items. The decision had been made at the January meeting to discuss funding. He pointed out that the ECC had not budgeted any funds for training, such as for the meetings of PSAP managers, and that this must be considered in the next budget cycle. To answer the question of how to fund counties with no financial resources, he stated this would be addressed by the PSAP owners in the strategic plan.

Discussion then followed on whether the ECC budget can be modified to cover the training needs. Commissioner Cronin stated that since the ECC is continuously appropriated, the budget can be modified as long as we do not exceed available funding.

MOTION: Commissioner Bishop moved and Commissioner Berry seconded that Mr. Goldsmith and Commissioner Moore work on and provide an amended budget at the March meeting as long as the budget does not exceed existing funds. The motion passed.

Legislative Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Baker reported that House Bill 123 went before the House on February 7 and was presented by Commissioner Wills. House Bill 123 is intended to provide for a fee and imposition of a fee for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) communication. She will let the Commission know when the full hearing on the bill is scheduled.

New Business

Chairman Nancolas asked that the Next Generation 911 training be added to the March meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Baker moved and Commissioner Bishop seconded that the March 1 meeting include the Next Generation 911 training. The motion passed.

MOTION: After discussion, Commissioner Moore moved and Commissioner Quick seconded that the April 5 meeting be a full-day meeting held in Grangeville, with a morning session for training and a tour of the local PSAP. The motion passed.

Open Comment Period

Lex Rutter, Idaho Public Safety Communication Manager, stated that he is reorganizing a local Idaho chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). He is planning a half-day meeting in June and telephone/dispatch personnel, PSAP managers, and communication technicians will be invited.

Commissioner Bishop discussed the Governor's initiative to devolve the Department of Administration and that this initiative could possibly move the ECC to the Military Division. Commissioner Bishop reported that the Adjutant General recognizes how crucial the ECC and its administrative support are to the State of Idaho. The Military Division would provide the ECC a good home.

Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Cronin and seconded by Commissioner Quick to adjourn the February 8, 2007 Idaho Emergency Communications Commission meeting at 2:55 p.m. The motion passed.

Mayor Garret Nancolas, Chairman
Idaho Emergency Communications Commission

Scot R. Maring, Administrative Assistant
Department of Administration